

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the March 29, 2005 Office Action. Claims 2 to 9 are pending in the application, with Claim 5 being independent. Claims 5 and 9 have been amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failure to satisfy the written description requirement. Claims 2 to 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. These rejections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendments made to Claims 5 and 9. With respect to the § 112, first paragraph, rejection, Applicants submit that the subject matter of Claims 5 and 9 is supported, *inter alia*, by Table 1 and page 13, lines 24 to 27 of the instant specification.

Claims 2 to 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,203,608 (Sun). Claims 2 to 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,066,581 (Chivukula). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sun in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,247,799 (Sakamaki). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

According to one feature of the invention as recited by Claim 5, the sol-gel composition is prepared by performing a plurality of purification operations at different times.

None of the applied documents are seen to teach or suggest at least the foregoing feature.

According to another feature of the invention as recited by Claim 5, the

total content of the elemental halogens, halogen ions, and halogen compounds contained in the sol-gel composition is 10 ppm or less. By virtue of this feature, leakage current can be sharply reduced. See, for example, page 6, lines 3 to 7 of the instant specification.

The applied documents also are not seen to teach or suggest this feature.

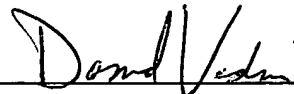
It is Applicants' understanding that Sun and Chivukula merely describe the use of high purity raw materials, and do not describe a range of content of elemental halogens, halogen ions, and halogen compounds in the sol-gel composition.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from the independent claim discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, the application is believed to be fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
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our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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